(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought Centre's techno-economic clearance for the expansion project of M/s. Jindal Tractebel Power Company Ltd; and

(b) If so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka has requested the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for its clearance of the proposed 2x250 MW expansion project at Torangallu in Bellary district of Karnataka. Since, certain inputs *viz.*, fuel availability and its transportation arrangement, water availability (State and Centre), clearance from Airports Authority of India, no objection certificate from State Pollution Control Board, environment clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, firmed up completed cost and tentative financial package had not been tied up, the Independent Power Producer (IPP) was informed by CEA that the proposal is not being pursued and may be treated as returned. The IPP was advised to submit revised Detailed Project Report (DPR) complete with all inputs/clearances. Accord of Techno-economic clearance by CEA to the scheme could be considered only after the revised DPR, complete in all respects, is received by CEA.

Diversion of 2.52 HA. of land for 66 KV transmission line from Kushalnagar Madikeri in Kodagu, Karnataka

1567. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has requested for diversions of 2.52 ha. of land for 66 KV single circuit transmission line from Kushalnagar to Madikeri in District Kodagu, Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Karnataka have requested the Government of India, Ministry of Environment and Forests for divesions of 2.52 Ha. of forest land at Kodagu District for upgrading the existing 33 KV Kushalnagar-Madikeri Line to 66 KV. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have given in principle approval (*i.e.* Stage-I) for the project. Final clearance for the project will be given on completion of formalities.